

p 11/

Ans.
24.1.02

From

Dr. Murray,

OXFORD.

(Postal Address.)



(Residence: Sunnyside, Banbury Road.)

22 Jan^y 1902

Dear Sir William,

I wonder if you have any
spots of light on the history of the name
Oleander. I do not know how far this goes

back in med. L. but it occurs in a French
^(Grand Herbier 337)
herbal of the 15th C. as 'Oleandre ou olexatrum'
It has similar forms in the other Romanic langs.
It. oleandro, Sp. oleandro.

The suggestion of Dietz is that the name
is a corruption of lorandrum or laurandrum
mentioned by Isidore of Seville, ^(ob. 640) Origines XVII. VII. 54.
~~Not~~ in a list de nominibus arborum, after Myrica,
Myrtus, Sentiscus, Serbinthus, Buxus ...
54 "Rhododendron [vul. rodandarum], quod
corrupto vulgo lorandrum [vul. laurandrum] vocatur,
quod sit foliis lauri acinilibus, flore ut rosa, arbor
venenata. Interficiit enim animalia, et medetur
serpentum vexationes"

Of course, if rhododendrum was corrupted to
rodandrum, it was ~~not~~ a facile descender
further, through rorandrum to lorandrum
(ror- being dissimilated to lor-, as in similar cases);
but it is not very easy to get from lorandrum
or a Romance lorandro to oleander, which
looks as if it were influenced by olea olive.

There is also the question whether the rhododendron,
rodandrum, vulgo lorandrum, of Isidore
was this plant, or whether it was what we
now call rhododendron. Also whether
there is anything in the appearance of Oleander
(which strictly I do not know at all) to
suggest some resemblance or kinship to
the olive.

Lyste (who gives a bad character to Oleander, and
actually makes it the lent for a little homily)
calls it in Latin Laurus rosea and Rosea arbor...
in English, Rose Tree or Rose Bay Tree, Oleander,
and Nerium. Colgrave⁽⁶¹¹⁾ gives the French 'Oleandre' as 'the
Rose Tree, Rose Bay, Rose Laurell, Rose Bay tree.

It is very difficult to see therefore how the Olive
came in at all to alter the name to Oleander.

If you can throw a little light on any part
of the chain of conjecture, I shall be thankful.
If one ~~was~~ had reason to believe that Isidore's
tree were really Oleander, it would be
something. Also it would be worth something
to know how far the name oleander goes
back, for if it is really 'corrupted' from
lorandrum, a good deal of time must be
allowed for such a diversion..

I have just found the word in Mowatt's ed
of Alphita c. 1450 as

Oleandrum i.e. silvestris olea.

so that the writer of this evidently associated it
with the Olive, and off. thought it the Oleaster.

By the way, he makes quite a different thing of
olixatrium than the French Herbal quoted at beg. of this:
he makes it Petroselinum macedonicum et Alexandrium
idem: evidently he means olusatrum.

J.H. Murray

of one of your books, so as to do him justice,
If this is in type or MS. I should ~~be~~ esteem
it a favour if you could show it to me.

Also, if you could supply me with a short
quotation containing the words dynamo-electric
machine between 1867 and 1875 (date of Clarke's
Patent No 4311).

Apologizing for thus troubling you,

Yours

Yours very truly

James M. Murray

From

Dr. Murray,

OXFORD.

(Postal Address.)

(Residence: Sunnyside, Banbury Road.)

3 July 1907.

Dear Professor,

I have had some trouble with a Dr.
Hilde, who objects to the statement made in the
Dictionary as to the origin of the term dynamo-
electric, which he considers in some way rob
him of his due, and ^{which he} appears to look upon as part
of a general conspiracy to to wrong him,
of a general conspiracy to to wrong him.

His statement ^{in the Dicty.} is founded upon an article in
the Times, in which you are quoted as saying
that 'the name 'dynamo-electric machine' was
first applied by Dr. Werner Siemens in a communication
made in January 1867 to the Berlin Academy, etc.

I am told that this is an error (of a very innocent
kind, I should think) & that the name 'dynamo-electric
machine' does not occur in that Memoir, but was
actually

first used (so far as is known) by Mr P. Brooke in
a communication to the Royal Society in March 1867.

This communication is said to run

'The dynamic nature of electric energy is clearly indicated by the dynamo-electric machine of Holtz, in which dynamic is directly converted into electric energy, and by the cogwheel machines of Wilde, Wheelstone, Siemens and Sudd, in all of which alike there is an intervening conversion of dynamics into magnetic energy.'

Do you suppose that these facts as to the first use of the name are as here stated?

If so, I propose to delete the quotation from the Times, and in its place to insert the above, and another early quot.ⁿ if I can find one. Also to alter the note to the definitions as in the next page. Do you think it will then be ~~more~~ accurate and innocuous? Dr Wilde also says that you are going to alter a passage in the next edition of

Note

Original

The full name 'dynamo-electric machine' was given by Siemens in 1867 to distinguish his invention from ...

Proposed alterations

The name 'dynamo-electric machine' appears to have been first used in 1867 (see quot.) to distinguish electric machines of this type from ...

the magneto-electric machines previously used, in which the electric current was generated by means of a permanent magnet. But in the shortened form dynamo (recommended by Prof. S. P. Thompson early in 1882), the use of the word has been extended so as to include all forms of these machines: see quot. 1884

This altered form being quite impersonal can hardly offend anybody, I should think.

MURRAY (Sir James Augustus Henry, first editor of the *New English Dictionary*, 1837-1915)
A.L.S. (JAMES J. A. MURRAY), Sunnyside, Banbury Rd., Oxford, 3 July 1902, to 'Dear Professor'
[Silvanus P. Thompson], 4 pages 8vo., £1, 1s **LONDON BOTHERAN** 52

An interesting letter on the etymology of some electric terms. 'I have had some trouble with a Dr. Wilde [the notorious litigant], who objects to the statement made in the Dictionary as to term *dynamo-electric*, which he considers in some way robs him of his due, and which he appears to look upon as part of a general conspiracy to wrong him.' . . .

'Fast ein Vierteljahr ist es her, dass ich mit rotem Talare bekleidet und mit dem charakteristischen Barett bedurch die Strassen von Oxford wanderte, um dort die höchste akademische Auszeichnung zu erhalten.' . . .

5833 **PERCY** (**John**, M.D., F.R.S., *metallurgist*, 1817-89) A.L.S. (**JOHN PERCY**), House of Comm
July 23 1878, to 'My excellent friend' [E. W. Cooke, R.A.], 3¼ closely written pages 8vo., £1
Chiefly on the R.A. Exhibition, and matters of art and painting.

5834 **PERKIN** (**Sir William Henry**, F.R.S., *discoverer of aniline dyes*, 1838-1907) A.L.S. (W)